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## House of Representatives

The House met at 9:00 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Eternal God and Lord of history, each day this Nation seeks Your blessing that we may know the ways that are righteous and be protected from evil.

The revered Abraham Lincoln spoke of the "mystic chords of memory." He was convinced that heroes and heroines of the past inspire people presently to make bold steps into the future.

Thus, Congress makes laws today by building upon the past.

Lord, for Lincoln, the profound obligation and duties of the Constitution were so strong that there is a link of the living with the dead and with the unborn of a new generation.

Fidelity to the Constitution is a guarantee to the future, because the living are determined "that representative government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth." Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PALLONE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minutes on each side.

### DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, a debate is brewing in Congress that will have a significant impact on the future of this Nation. There are two clearly defined sides in this debate. On the one hand are fiscal conservatives such as myself who want to cut government spending and rein in the Federal deficit. On the other hand are folks who believe that more government spending is the answer to all our problems, and these folks will raise your taxes to pay for it.

In light of the high cost associated with hurricane relief, our budget's \$35 billion savings package is simply not enough. The good news is that Congress now has the rare opportunity to rein in Federal spending by \$50 billion and reform decades-old programs that are often duplicative and ineffective.

It is disappointing that many of my Democratic colleagues are fighting the Deficit Reduction Act. Even though they complain about the deficit, they would like to increase spending by billions of dollars. These Members have no plan to reduce the deficit. Their only answer is to raise taxes.

Mr. Speaker, the last thing we need is more of the old tax-and-spend mentality. The Deficit Reduction Act gives us an opportunity to streamline our government, reform ineffective programs, cut spending, and provide greater accountability. It is time for this important legislation to pass.

### REPUBLICANS ARE NOT ADDRESSING THE DEFICIT

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans tout their budget bill as fiscally responsible, but the American

people should not be deceived. It is nothing more than another attempt to cut taxes for the wealthiest few on the backs of America's college students and America's Medicaid and food stamp recipients.

The cuts House Republicans will attempt to bring to the House floor next week are nothing but cruel. It has only been 2 months, and Republicans have already forgotten about the poverty stricken people affected by Hurricane Katrina.

While Republicans cut \$50 billion in Federal programs, they also give \$70 billion in tax cuts to the wealthiest few. That means the Republican budget bill will increase the deficit by \$20 billion. Again, increase the deficit. And Republicans call themselves fiscally responsible? Well, the American people will be watching next week, and they will not be deceived.

### PROTECTING PATIENT PRIVACY

(Mr. MURPHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, nearly all Americans' personal health information remains at some risk. More than one in four health insurance plans and almost one in three care providers have indicated that they experience data security breaches of personal health information.

The problem is that only 43 percent of health care providers comply with Federal laws that protect an unauthorized disclosure of health information. As the U.S. slowly expands its use of electronic health records, Congress needs to shift from the current complaint-driven approach to enforcing privacy standards to proactively defending patients' personal information. Every American should be able to know that their medical records are secure.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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